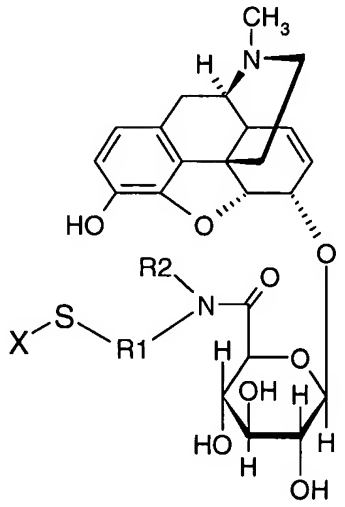
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims

1. (Currently Amended) Compound of formula (A):



(A)

in which:

- all of ~~the above entity~~ formula (A), with the exception of the substituent X, is called M6G-N(R_2)R_1-S-

- R_1 ~~represents~~ is a linear or branched C_1-C_{10} alkyl group, unsubstituted or substituted by at least one substituent, the alkyl chain being optionally interrupted by one or more heteroatoms ~~chosen from~~ including O, S ~~and~~ or N;

- R_2 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen, a linear or branched C_1-C_5 alkyl group or an aryl, heteroaryl or (C_1-C_5) alkylaryl group, unsubstituted or substituted by a C_1-C_4 alkyl;

- X ~~represents~~ is hydrogen, an M6G-N(R_2)R_1-S- residue or a polymer linked with the rest of ~~the entity~~ formula (A) by a spacer arm;

- the asymmetric carbons present in the formula (A) can have the R or S configuration, or

~~as well as its~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salts of formula (A).

2. (Currently Amended) Compound according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ ~~- R_1 and R_2 are as defined in claim 1;~~

-wherein X ~~represents~~ is an M6G-N(R_2)R_1-S- residue, the two M6G-N(R_2)R_1-S- residues constituting the compounds of formula (A) in dimer form being identical or different.

3. (Currently Amended) Compound according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ ~~- R_1 is as defined in claim 1;~~

-wherein R_2 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen, and

- X ~~represents~~ is hydrogen.

4. (Currently Amended) Compound according to claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ ~~- R_1 is as defined in claim 1;~~

- wherein R_2 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen, and

- X ~~represents~~ is an M6G-N(R_2)R_1-S- residue in which R_1 and R_2 are as defined above.

5. (Currently Amended) Compound according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R_1 ~~represents~~ is an alkyl group substituted by one or more substituents including ~~chosen from~~: a C_1-C_5 alkyl group; an amino group; a $COOR_3$ group; a C_1-C_{20} ketone; a C_1-C_{20} aldehyde; or a $CONR_3R_4$ group, wherein R_3 and R_4 ~~in the $COOR_3$ or $CONR_3R_4$ groups~~ are each independently ~~representing~~ hydrogen, an optionally substituted C_1-C_{20} alkyl, an aryl, a heteroaryl or an alkylaryl group~~; a C_1-C_{20} ketone and a C_1-C_{20} aldehyde~~.

6. (Currently Amended) Compound according to claims 1 or 3, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ R_1 ~~represents~~ is -$(CH_2)_2$-, R_2 is hydrogen and X is hydrogen.

7. (Currently Amended) Compound according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1~~,~~ or 2 ~~or 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R_1 ~~represents~~ is -$(CH_2)_2$-, R_2 is hydrogen and X is an M6G-N(R_2)R_1-S- residue in which R_1 = -$(CH_2)_2$- and R_2 is hydrogen.

8. (Currently Amended) Compound according to ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1~~, or 2 ~~or 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~

-wherein R_1 ~~represents~~ is a -$CH(COOR_3)$-CH_2- group in which R_3 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl,

- R_2 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen,

- X ~~represents~~ is hydrogen or an M6G-$N(R_2)R_1$-S- residue in which R_1 = -$CH(COOR_3)$-CH_2- in which R_3 is as defined above and R_2 is hydrogen.

9. (Currently Amended) Compound according to ~~one of~~ claims ~~1~~ or 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

- R_1 ~~represents~~ is a -$CH(CONR_3R_4)$-CH_2- group in which R_3 and R_4 ~~represent~~ are hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl,

- R_2 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen,

- X ~~represents~~ is hydrogen or an M6G-$N(R_2)R_1$-S- residue in which R_1 = -$CH(CONR_3R_4)$-CH_2- in which R_3 and R_4 are as defined above and R_2 is hydrogen.

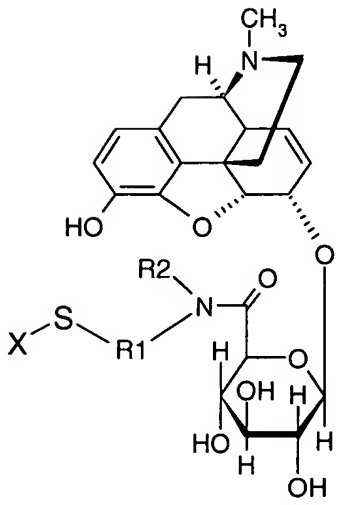
10. (Currently Amended) Compound according to claims ~~1~~ or 5, ~~characterized in that~~

-wherein R_1 ~~represents~~ is a -$CH(COOR_3)$-$C(CH_3)_2$- group in which R_3 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl,

- R_2 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen

- X ~~represents~~ is hydrogen or an M6G-$N(R_2)R_1$-S- residue in which R_1 = -$CH(COOR_3)$-C $(CH_3)_2$- in which R_3 is as defined above and R_2 is hydrogen.

11. (Currently Amended) Compound ~~according to claims 1 or 5, characterized in that~~ of formula (A):



(A)

in which:

- all of formula (A), with the exception of the substituent X, is called M6G-$N(R_2)R_1$-S-

-wherein R_1 ~~represents~~ is a $-CH(COOR_3)-(CH_2)_2-C(O)NHCH(R_5)-CH_2-$ group, in which R_3 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl and R_5 ~~represents~~ is $-C(O)-NH-CH_2-COOR_3$,

- R_2 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen

- X ~~represents~~ is hydrogen or an M6G-$N(R_2)R_1$-S- residue in which R_1 = $-CH(COOR_3)-(CH_2)_2-C(O)NHCH(R_5)-CH_2-$ in which R_3 and R_5 are as defined above and R_2 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen.

12. (Currently Amended) Compound according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~

-wherein R_1 ~~represents~~ is a $-(CH_2)_2-$ group,

- R_2 ~~represents~~ is hydrogen

- X ~~represents~~ is a polymer linked to the rest of the entity by a spacer arm of formula $-S-(CH_2)_n-NH-C(O)-$ in which n = 0 to 4 and said polymer is a polyethylene glycol of molecular weight (Mw) greater than or equal to 10000.

13. (Currently Amended) Method for the preparation of a compound of formula (A) according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 12~~, ~~characterized in that it comprises the~~

~~stages consisting of~~ comprising reacting morphine-6-glucuronide with a compound of formula (III) NHR_2-R_1-S-S-R_1-NHR_2, in which R_1 and R_2 are as defined above ~~in any one of claims 1 to 11~~, in the presence of a coupling agent, and reducing the disulphide bridge using a reducing agent if necessary.

14. (Currently Amended) Method for the preparation of a compound of formula (A) according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 11~~, in which X = H, ~~characterized in that it comprises the stages consisting of~~ comprising reacting morphine-6-glucuronide with a compound of formula (IV) NHR_2-R_1-SH, in which R_1 and R_2 are as defined above ~~in any one of claims 1 to 12~~, in the presence of a coupling agent and reducing *in situ* the oxidation by-products using a reducing agent.

15. (Currently Amended) Method ~~according to one~~ of claims 13 or 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the coupling agent includes ~~is chosen from~~ benzotriazol-1-yl-oxy-tris-pyrrolidino-phosphonium hexafluorophosphate (PyBOP), dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC), DCC combined with hydroxybenzotriazole (DCC/HOBT) ~~and~~ or diisopropylcarbodiimide combined with HOBT (DIPCDI/HOBT).

16. (Currently Amended) Method ~~according to one~~ of claims 13 or 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the reducing agent ~~is chosen from~~ includes tris(2-carboxyethyl)phosphine, triphenylphosphine, tris(hydroxymethyl)-phosphine ~~and~~ or dithiothreitol.

17. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical composition~~, characterized in that it contains~~ including a compound of formula (A) according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 12~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

18. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17~~, characterized in that it is~~ which is in a form ~~which~~ that can be administered by parenteral route.

19. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17, ~~characterized in that it is~~ which is in ~~the~~ a form of a preparation ~~which~~ that can be injected by sub-cutaneous, intravenous or intramuscular route.

20. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19, ~~characterized in that it is~~ which is in a form ~~which~~ that can be administered by oral route.

21. (Currently Amended) Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20, ~~characterized in that it has~~ which has a sustained or controlled activity.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for treating pain comprising administering ~~Use of~~ a compound according to ~~any one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 to a human ~~to 12 or a pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 17 to 21, for the production of a medicament intended for the treatment of pain~~.

23. (New) A method for treating pain comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17 to a human.